



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

THE HYPOCRISY OF SCOTT WALKER AND THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PROPOSAL

Milwaukee, WI – The latest comments by Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker would lead you to believe that he is opposed to receiving federal dollars that might lead to future increases in Milwaukee County's operating expenses. He also claims he is against corporate bailouts. This is an amazing flip-flop from the action that he has taken in the recent past.

The County Executive thinks we have all forgotten his aggressive support of loan guarantees for Midwest Airlines in 2006. Milwaukee County is now on the hook for some \$14 million if Midwest were to default on bonds guaranteed by Milwaukee County. Walker did not support amendments that would have tied those loan guarantees to keeping jobs in Milwaukee. The results for taxpayers have been less than beneficial as executives of Midwest have cashed out with their golden parachutes and over a thousand jobs have vanished.

Secondly, at the December 3rd meeting of the Milwaukee County Board's Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee, County Executive Walker's administration gave a presentation on the Executive's Bus Rapid Transit proposal and informed the Board that he would be submitting an application for federal funding. That request would require a local match of anywhere from 20% to 50% of the project cost. The estimated cost to property taxpayers would be between \$12 to \$25 million, not including increased long-term operating expenses.

These are only two examples of many that highlight the misrepresentation being made by County Executive Walker. Milwaukee County is in great need of a long-term infrastructure plan. Walker's failure to develop a plan after more than six years in office is appalling and only underscores his lack of interest in properly maintaining the assets that belong to the citizens of Milwaukee County. The long-term cost of this act of delinquency will not only be passed on to the taxpayers of Milwaukee County, its negative affects will ripple throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

We still need a long-term capital and infrastructure management plan for Milwaukee County. Stimulus funds can address capital needs that will be completed with or without federal funding. These stimulus funds would actually help reduce the property tax burden in Milwaukee County and provide improvements for residents in all 19 municipalities. County Executive Walker still has an opportunity to admit he was wrong and move forward. I believe he is capable of that and hope he does.

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